

MaineCare Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2020
10:00 a.m. to noon
Via Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

Kathy Kilrain del Rio called to order the regular meeting of the MaineCare Advisory Committee at 10:03 a.m. on Tuesday, April 7th.

II. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS

Kathy Kilrain del Rio conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

MaineCare Advisory Committee Members:

Kathy Kilrain del Rio; Vickie McCarty; Esther Bullard; Laura Cordes; Leo Delicata; Gia Drew; Al Durgin; Rachel Dyer; Mark Eves; Mike Hallundbaek; Jillian Jolicoeur; Jim Martin; Atlee Reilly; Mary Schneckenburger; Judy Seals; Susan White; David Winslow; Marge Kilkelly

MaineCare Staff: Sarah Grant; Tom Leet Lora Marchand; Michelle Probert; Molly Slotznick; Lisa Weaver

Guests: Jill Adams; Julie Brennan; Cathy Dionne; Christopher Pezzullo; Malory Shaughnessy; Sharon Stanley; Lisa Tuttle; Sarah Lewis; Dee Sabattus

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. COVID-19 Challenges

Kathy invited the MAC participants to share the biggest challenge their organization and/or stakeholders is/are facing. Their chief COVID-19 concerns include:

- Getting older adults getting support they need.
- Making the transition to telehealth.
- Access to emergency care. What happens if hotspots become overloaded? Will more people not have access to care on the basis of their eligibility?
- Concern about people impacted by social isolation.
- Many providers are significantly down staff.
- Trying to retool services and working through how to access federal support.
- Experiencing about a 50% reduction in services due to folks not being open to telehealth.

- The reduction in non-essential visits equals a reduction in revenue.
- Clientele are experiencing a great distrust in government.
- People don't have the devices for telehealth or are unable to access broadband,
- Struggling to get PPE.
- Funding challenges as social distancing has forced cancellation of scheduled fundraisers.

B. Department Updates

- Esther Bullard presented an OFI update. OFI will allow applicants to self-attest when supplying required income information during the COVID crisis. The Department will go back and verify the self attestation when it is possible to do so.
- Review of rulemaking/SPA/waivers.
 - Lora Marchand presented a PowerPoint regarding the Office of MaineCare Services' COVID-19 initiatives. The filing of emergency rules and emergency SPAs will be followed by additional emergency rules as the situation evolves. Information is being made available as quickly as possible on the Department's COVID-19 resource website.
 - The Department is working on an HCBC Waiver, along with a Disaster Relief SPA. Michelle Probert provided an update on the 1135 Waiver application. Laura Cordes inquired if there is a possibility for flexibility around the assistive technology assessment under Section 21 noting that securing assessments is tough.

C. Telehealth Billing Update

Jillian Jolicoeur noted that providers are having a difficult time figuring out telehealth billing. Molly Slotznick will ask Heidi Goodale to reach out to Jillian to assist with her question.

D. Rates Increase Update

Michelle noted the Department is working closely with the Legislature to provide some interim targeted rate relief. The Department is also working on a Disaster Relief SPA in an attempt to get authority for temporary rate increases.

E. Interim Payments to Behavioral Health Providers

Malory Shaughnessy inquired if there will be interim payments made to Behavioral Health providers.

F. Rate-Setting Evaluation Initiative

G. DLS eligibility and follow-up

H. Outreach by agencies to clients during the COVID-19

- Are certain technologies being used?
- What supports are needed from DHHS to make this work better?
- How could we make Behavioral Town Hall Mtgs even more useful?
- What is happening for IDD and SUD folks?

I. Equity in Accessing Health Care

- Ensure any decisions on rationing of health care don't result in discrimination with regard to disability status.
- How can we ensure all Mainers have access to health care during this emergency?

J. Items From Guests.

- No items raised.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Kathy Kilrain del Rio adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Minutes submitted by: Lisa Weaver